

FIR-317/09155-76

COUNTRY: VIETNAM

DOI : LATE MARCH-JULY 1976

**SUBJECT: 1. AMERICANS REMAINING IN SAIGON AND REPORTED
CAPTURE OF TWO AMERICANS NEAR VUNG TAU
2. AMERICAN PRISONERS, INCLUDING WAR WOUNDED,
ALLEGEDLY STILL BEING HELD IN VIETNAM**

ACQ :

SOURCE :

SUMMARY. AS OF MID-MAY 1976 TWO AMERICANS WHO WERE FORMERLY EMPLOYED AT LONG BINH BASE WERE LIVING IN THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMPOUND IN SAIGON. THEIR NICKNAMES AND PHYSICAL DESCRIPTIONS ARE GIVEN. IN LATE NOVEMBER 1975, THE COMMUNISTS CLAIMED THE CAPTURE OF TWO AMERICAN AND ABOUT 20 VIETNAMESE IN VUNG TAU AND SUBSEQUENTLY THE COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES THERE HELD A MOCK TRIAL.

~~SECRET~~

TO TRY THESE PRISONERS. IN MAY 1976 A NORTH VIETNAMESE CADRE WHO HAD BEEN SENT TO SAIGON TOLD A SOUTH VIETNAMESE CONTACT THAT HE HAS SEEN "MANY" AMERICAN PRISONERS IN HANOI WHO WERE SUFFERING FROM WAR WOUNDS OR MENTAL DISORDERS.

IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1976 NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICERS TOLD [REDACTED] THAT SERIOUSLY ILL AMERICAN PRISONERS WERE STILL BEING HELD IN NORTH VIETNAM BECAUSE THE COMMUNISTS FEARED THEIR RELEASE WOULD HAVE AN UNFAVORABLE IMPACT ON PUBLIC OPINION. [REDACTED]

SECURITY OFFICIAL [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] . END SUMMARY.

~~SECRET~~

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1. TWO MALE AMERICANS WERE LIVING [REDACTED] IN SAIGON AS OF MID-MAY 1976. BOTH MEN FORMERLY WERE EMPLOYED AT LONG BINH BASE, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
2. ONE OF THE MEN WAS NAMED "JOHNNY" OR "JIMMY" (LNU). HE WAS 28-30 YEARS OLD, APPROXIMATELY 170 POUNDS, AND 5 FEET 8 INCHES TALL. HE HAD CURLY DARK BROWN HAIR WITH A GOATEE, BROWN EYES, FAIR COMPLEXION, MUCH BODY HAIR, AND NO NOTICEABLE SCARS. HE WORE GLASSES AND HAD A MANNERISM WHICH WAS DESCRIBED AS SHRUGGING HIS SHOULDERS OFTEN. THIS MAN WAS KNOWN TO SPEAK ONLY ENGLISH. HIS HEALTH APPEARED TO BE GOOD.

3. THE SECOND MAN WAS NAMED "BILL" (LNU). HE WAS IN HIS EARLY 30'S, WAS LESS THAN 5 FEET 8 INCHES TALL, AND WEIGHED ABOUT 180 POUNDS. HE HAD DARK BROWN HAIR, A RUDDY COMPLEXION, AND NO NOTICEABLE MANNERISMS. IN ADDITION TO ENGLISH, HE SPOKE SOME VIETNAMESE AND A LITTLE FRENCH.

4. [REDACTED]

TWO AMERICANS AND ABOUT 20 VIETNAMESE HAD BEEN CAPTURED IN THE SMALLER OF TWO MOUNTAIN AREAS NEAR BACK BEACH IN VUNG TAU. [REDACTED] THE COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES HAD REQUIRED THEM TO GO TO THE CITY CENTER WHERE THEY SAW TWO AMERICANS AND ABOUT 20 VIETNAMESE TIED TOGETHER BEING MARCHED THROUGH THE STREETS. THE AUTHORITIES STATED THESE PRISONERS HAD BEEN CAPTURED IN THE SMALLER MOUNTAIN AREA, WHICH WAS PLACED OFF LIMITS BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF RESISTANCE FORCES THERE. [REDACTED] DID NOT PROVIDE [REDACTED] PHYSICAL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE AMERICANS THEY SAW. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A MOCK TRIAL FOR THESE PRISONERS WAS CONDUCTED IN AN OPEN BEACH AREA, AT WHICH THE COMMUNIST PROSECUTORS SAID THAT ANYONE BEARING ARMS AGAINST THE COMMUNIST REGIME WOULD BE SENTENCED TO DEATH. NO PRISONERS WERE PRESENT AT THE TRIAL AND NO SPECIFIC MENTION OF AMERICANS WAS MADE DURING THE TRIAL. ALTHOUGH ALL PRISONERS WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH, [REDACTED] DID NOT KNOW WHETHER ANY OF THE AMERICANS WERE

EXECUTED, BUT [REDACTED] SAID THAT ONE VIETNAMESE EX-COLONEL CAPTURED ON THAT OCCASION HAD BEEN KILLED.

[REDACTED] : WHETHER THE TWO CAPTURED INDIVIDUALS IDENTIFIED AS "AMERICANS" WERE ACTUALLY NON-AMERICAN CAUCASIANS CANNOT BE DETERMINED. ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES CLAIMED THESE "AMERICANS" WERE INVOLVED IN RESISTANCE ACTIVITIES, THEY POSSIBLY WERE MERELY IN HIDING

5. IN MAY 1976, [REDACTED], A SAIGON RESIDENT [REDACTED], SAID A FRIEND OF HIS TOLD OF SEEING "MANY" AMERICAN PRISONERS IN THE HANOI AREA. THE FRIEND ADDED THAT ALL OF THE PRISONERS WERE EITHER SERIOUSLY INJURED, I.E. CRIPPLED BY WAR WOUNDS OR SUFFERING FROM MENTAL DISORDERS RELATING TO THEIR LONG IMPRISONMENT OR HARSH TREATMENT. [REDACTED] FRIEND, WITH WHOM HE WAS IN FREQUENT CONTACT, WAS A NORTH VIETNAMESE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] : THE TIME FRAME FOR THE OBSERVATION
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS IS UNKNOWN. [REDACTED]

6. IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1976, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], SAID THAT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS NVA OFFICERS, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], SAID THAT AMERICAN PRISONERS WERE STILL BEING HELD
IN NORTH VIETNAM. THEY ALSO TOLD [REDACTED] THAT SINCE THESE
PRISONERS WERE ALL SICK OR BADLY INJURED, THE DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (DRV) AUTHORITIES WERE AFRAID OF A POSSIBLE
UNFAVORABLE IMPACT ON PUBLIC OPINION SHOULD THEY BE RELEASED.

[REDACTED] : THE TIME FRAME FOR THE CONTINUED
DETENTION OF THESE AMERICAN PRISONERS IS UNKNOWN.)

7. IN JULY 1976, [REDACTED], A NVA SECURITY OFFICIAL

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██████████
██████████ WHEN █████
██████████ ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO "MORE THAN 10 AMERICANS
STILL IN VIETNAMESE JAILS, █████ REPLIED THAT "THEY WOULD
BE HANDLED SEPARATELY." █████
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